

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 04607 010704Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSY-02 /059 W  
-----011235Z 124965 /10

P 010559Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2320

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 4607

EO 11652; GDS  
TAGS: PFOR IN  
SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISSER MEETS HEADS OF MISSION

REF: NEW DELHI 4592

1. FOREIGN MINISTER VAJPAYEE CONTINUED HIS MINISTRY'S  
EFFORTS TO EMPHASIZE THE THEME OF CONTINUITY IN  
INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY WHEN HE MET WITH HEADS OF  
MISSION IN NEW DELHI ON THE EVENING OF MARCH 31.

2. MUCH OF WHAT VAJPAYEE SAID WAS UNEXCEPTIONAL.  
HE STARTED EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF DEMOCRACY  
IN INDIA. THEN IN RAPID SUCCESSION HE COMMENTED  
ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY ALONG  
THE FOLLOWING LINES. FOREIGN POLICY HAD NOT BEEN AN  
ISSUE IN THE ELECTIONS. FOR A LONG TIME THERE HAD  
BEEN A CONSENSUS IN INDIA REGARDING THE NATION'S  
POLICY OF NONALIGNMENT WHICH CONTINUED. INDIA INTENDED  
TO COOPERATE IN AREAS OF TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT WITH  
OTHER UNDERDEVELOPED CUNTRIES. IT WOULD GIVE PRIORITY  
TO ITS RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS. "COOPERATION,  
NOT CONFRONTATION, IS THE WATCH WORD." INDIA AND ITS  
NEIGHBORS SHOULD NOT USE THEIR RESOURCES FOR ARMS BUT  
SHOULD EMPLOYEE THEM FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THEIR PEOPLE.  
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THEY SHOULD SOLVE DISPUTES WITH NEIGHBORS. INDIA  
WISHED TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES.  
IT HAD IMPORTANT ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE  
NATIONS OF WEST AFRICA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA. ITS  
RELATIONS WERE GOOD WITH THE COUNTRIES OF EASTERN  
EUROPE AND INDIA RECEIVED VARIOUS BENEFITS FROM  
THOSE COUNTRIES. INDIA'S RELATIONS WITH THE COUNTRIES

OF WESTERN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA WERE "REWARDING" AND INDIA DESIRED THAT THOSE RELATIONS BE "MMORE PURPOSEFUL." INDIA HOPED THERE COULD BE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DEVELOPED AND UNDERDEVELOPED WORLD AND PROGRESS TOWARD A NEW ECONOMIC ORDER. THERE HAS BEEN IMPORTANT CHANGE IN INDIA WHICH IS NOW BOTH A DEMOCRACY AND AN OPEN SOCIETY.

3. THE NEW FOREIGN MINISTER SPOKE EXTEMPORANEOUSLY, CHOOSING HIS WORDS WITH CARE, AND SPEEAKING WITH PRECISION AND STYLE. IT WAS AN IMPRESSIVE FIRST PERFORMANCE, AS WE UNDERSTAND WAS HIS INFORMAL DISCUSSION WITH FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS THE PREVIOUS DAY.

4. IN A BRIEF PRIVATE CONVERSATION VAJJPAYEE, WHOM THE CHARGE HAS KNOWN PREVIOUSLY, SPOKE WARMLY OF THE NEWS, AS PUBLISHED IN THE PRESS HERE, THAT A NEW AMERICAN AMBASSADOR WOULD BE COMING TO INDIA. THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND CHARGE AGREED THAT THEY WOULD GET TOGETHER SOON AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE NON-ALIGNED COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETINGS TO BE HELD IN NEW DELHI NEXT WEEK.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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